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Donald F. Haas

Date: July 25, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)	
)	
PAUL M. AYOUB, STEVEN C. SUMROW,)	
HENK DIRKZWAGER, and)	
BRENDAN D. MURRAY)	
)	
Serial No. 10/772,023)	Group Art Unit: 1764
)	
Filed February 4, 2004)	Examiner: John Christopher Douglas
)	
METHODS OF PREPARING BRANCHED)	July 25, 2006
ALKYL AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS)	
)	

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

REMARKS

The following remarks are submitted to the Examiner's rejection of June 15, 2006. Claims 1-281 were presented for examination. The Examiner has required restriction between seven groups among these 281 claims. The Applicants hereby affirm the election made in the telephone conversation of May 17, 2006, of Group I, claims 1-43, drawn to a serial process including steps of isomerization, for prosecution in this application.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marinangeli (U.S. 6,187,981), hereinafter "M1," in view of Marinangeli (U.S. 6,111,158), hereinafter "M2." In addition to this rejection, there are various rejections of the dependent claims based on these same two references. There is also a rejection of claims 26-37 under